

8. IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES

For the proposed facilities, some of the resource commitments would be irreversible and irretrievable; that is, the resources would be neither renewable nor recoverable for future use. Resources that would be irreversibly or irretrievably used during construction would include crushed stone, sand, lumber, water, diesel fuel, gasoline, and iron ore and coal used to produce steel. Resources that would be irreversibly or irretrievably used during the demonstration would include coal, water, natural gas (used during startup and fired in the gas combustion turbine and duct burners during periods when the gasifier was not operating), and small quantities of process chemicals, paints, degreasers, and lubricants. None of these resources is in short supply relative to the size and location of the proposed facilities.

The proposed facilities would require a commitment of human and financial resources that would prevent use of the resources for alternative projects or federal activities. However, the commitment is consistent with the purpose of and need for the proposed action (Section 1).

